



Spirit OF THE LAND



**THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
SINGING SERGEANTS**
WASHINGTON, D.C.

First Lieutenant Chad A. Steffey, *Conductor*



“The Singing Sergeants, the official chorus of the United States Air Force, is a national treasure.” This sentiment expressed by Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Craig Jessop, former director of the Singing Sergeants and current director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, is echoed by many throughout the music and military worlds as a testament to the ensemble’s musicality and professionalism. While building a lasting reputation of excellence in choral music, the Singing Sergeants has also focused on preserving and promoting American music and the American choral tradition.

The music on this recording is rooted in our nation’s folk traditions—the “music of the people.” *Spirit of the Land* features some of our favorite folk songs and spirituals. They are songs about family life, faith, folk tales, beautiful landscapes and heroes (...who are common folks). Because the melodies have been passed down by oral tradition, many of the composers are unknown. It seems a very

democratic notion that the people have chosen which songs and stories to keep throughout history. These pieces have become timeless expressions of our values and culture. The tunes themselves are simple, but they have evolved and aged gracefully through innumerable settings and arrangements.

Although each song tells a complete story, we have loosely arranged them into a larger program and storyline. As you listen, you'll hear the determination of young couples starting a new life, building homes, planting farms, working together and raising families. You'll hear the voices of children making up songs as they play. Many of the songs reflect the beauty of our land, rivers, valleys, mountains and gardens. In the spirituals and songs of faith you will hear irrepressible joy, hope for a better life, the lament of a yearning soul, and the glory of voices raised in praise. Of course, there's the timeless tale of boy meets girl, their courtship, marriage, and her sorrow when he goes off to war.

In military life, whether soldier, spouse, parent or child, there is a special bond and kinship among those who serve. We sing of heroes who gave of themselves so we may all enjoy this blessed way of life and the pursuit of our dreams as Americans. Just as the seed that is planted grows, bears fruit, dies, and scatters new seed across the land, we come full circle. Heroes return home from war, children grow and learn, begin new lives, build new homes, and raise their own families.

America is a promised land, a land where we build our dreams, where "seeds grow to plants, boys grow to men," and together we continue to build a nation. Our determination, our faith, our stories, our deeds of heroism, and the beauty that our country possesses are the *Spirit of the Land*—America!

We hope you find these songs to be inspiring and uplifting as you share them with your entire family. Follow the words as you listen to, sing along with and enjoy the artistry of the Singing Sergeants. Their professionalism represents the nearly 300,000 Air Force members who proudly serve their country and live by the values and ideals expressed in this recording. This album is dedicated to the thousands of Air Force members serving around the world. The dedication of our service members and the support of their families are remarkable.

STOMP YOUR FOOT

Choral Square Dance from The Tender Land

Stomp your foot upon the floor.

Throw the windows open.

Take a breath of fresh June air,

And dance around the room.

The air is free, the night is warm,

The music's here, and here's my home.

Men must labor to be happy,

Plowing fields and planting rows.

But ladies love a life that's easy,

Churning butter, milking cows,

Gathering eggs, feeding sows,

Mending, cooking, cleaning, ironing,

Raising families.

Ladies love their fine amusement,

Putting patches in a quilt,

But men prefer to bend their shoulder

To something that will stand when built.

Dancing ladies, making matches,

Playing games, singing snatches,

Romping, frisking, winking, whistling,

Raising families.

LITTLE BIRD, LITTLE BIRD

American Folk Song Sketch

Little Bird, Little Bird, go through my window

And buy molasses candy.

Go through my window, my sugar lump

And buy molasses candy.

SHENANDOAH

American Sea Chanty

O Shenandoah, I long to hear you,

Away, you rollin' river.

O Shenandoah, I long to hear you.

Away, I'm bound to go

Cross the wide Missouri.

O Shenandoah, I love your daughter,

Away, you rollin' river.

For her I've crossed the rollin' water.

Away, I'm bound to go

Cross the wide Missouri.

O Shenandoah, I'm bound to leave you,

Away, you rollin' river.

O Shenandoah, I won't deceive you.

Away, I'm bound to go

Cross the wide Missouri.

OLD JOE CLARK

American Folk Song

Old Joe Clark, he had a mule,
Name was Morgan Brown,
Ev'ry tooth in that mule's head
Was sixteen inches round.

Old Joe Clark, he had a cow,
She was muley born,
Took a buzzard fifty years
To fly from horn to horn.

Round and round, Old Joe Clark,
Round and round I say,
Round and round, Old Joe Clark,
I ain't got time to stay.

Old Joe Clark, he had a cat,
Would not sing or pray.
Stuck her head in that ol' jar,
Washed her sins away.

Old Joe Clark, he had a dog,
Blind as he could be.
Ran a red-bug 'round a stump,
Bear up yonder tree.

Old Joe Clark, he had a house,
Sixteen stories high,
And ev'ry story in that house
Was filled with chicken pie.

I won't go to Old Joe's house,
I'll tell the reason why,
'Cause I can't get 'round his garden spot
For tearing down the rye.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

American Folk Hymn

My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth's lamentation
I hear the real though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing;
It sounds an echo in my soul;
How can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear
And hear their death-knells ringing,
When friends rejoice both far and near,
How can I keep from singing?
In prison cell or dungeon vile
Our thoughts to them are winging,
When friends by shame are undefiled,
How can I keep from singing?

What if my joys and comforts die?
I know that truth is living.
What tho' the darkness round me close?
Still truth its light is giving!

No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth:
How can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin,
I see the blue above it.
And day by day this pathway smooths,
Since first I learned to love it.
The peace from love makes fresh my heart,
A song of hope is springing.
All things are mine since Truth I've found:
How can I keep from singing?

THE WATER IS WIDE

Traditional American Folksong

The water is wide, I cannot get o'er,
And neither have I wings to fly.
Give me a boat that can carry two,
And both shall row, my love and I.

I leaned my back 'gainst some young oak,
Thinking it was a trusty tree.
But first it bent and then it broke,
Just as my love proved false to me.

Oh, love is handsome, love is fine,
Bright as a jewel when first it's new,
But love grows old and waxeth cold,
And fades away like morning dew.

SAINTS BOUND FOR HEAVEN

Traditional

Our bondage it shall end by and by.
From Egypt's yoke set free,
Hail the glorious jubilee,
And to Canaan we'll return by and by.

Our Deliv'rer He shall come by and by.
And our sorrows have an end
With our three score years and ten,
And vast glory crown the day by and by.

And when to Jordan's floods we are come,
Jehovah rules the tide
And the waters He'll divide,
And the ransom'd host shall shout we are come.

Then with all the happy throng we'll rejoice!
Shouting glory to our King,
Till the vaults of heaven ring,
And thro' all eternity we'll rejoice!

SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

Traditional Spiritual

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, what did I see
Coming for to carry me home?
A band of angels coming after me.
Coming for to carry me home.

THE BATTLE OF JERICO

Traditional Spiritual

Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho
And the walls come tumbalin' down.

Talk about your kings of Gideon,
Talk about your men of Saul,
But none like good old Joshua
At the Battle of Jericho.

Right up to the walls of Jericho,
He marched with spear in hand.
'Go blow that ramhorn!' Joshua cried
'Cause the battle am in my hand.'

Then the lamb, ram, sheep horns begin to blow
And the trumpet begins to sound.
Joshua commanded the children to shout!
And the walls come a tumbalin' down.

DEEP RIVER

Spiritual

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into camp-groun'.

Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace?

Oh, Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into camp-groun'.

LET ME FLY

Spiritual

'Way down yonder in the middle of the fiel',
Angel a-workin' at the chariot wheel.
Not so partic'lar 'bout workin' at the wheel,
I jus' wan' to see how the chariot feel.
Oh let me fly to Mount Zion, Lord, Lord.

Meet that hypocrite on the street.
First thing he do is show his teeth.
Next thing he do is tell a lie.
Well, the best thing to do is pass him by.
Oh let me fly to Mount Zion, Lord, Lord.

I got a mother in the Promised Land.
Well, I ain't gonna stop 'til I shake her hand.
Not so partic'lar 'bout shakin' her hand,
But I just wan' to get to the Promised Land.
Oh let me fly to Mount Zion, Lord, Lord.

I heard such a rumbalin' in the sky,
I thought my Lord was passin' by.
'Twas the good ol' chariot drawin' nigh.
Well, it shook the earth, swept the sky.
Oh let me fly to Mount Zion, Lord, Lord.

HELLO, GIRLS

Traditional American Folksong

Hello, girls, listen to my voice,
Don't you ever marry no good-for-nothing boys.
If you do your doom shall be
Hoe-cake, hominy and sassafrass tea.

Young boys walking down the street,
Young girls think they look mighty sweet.
Hands in their pockets, not a dime do they find.
Oh, how tickled, poor girls mine.

When a young man falls in love,
First it's honey and then turtledove.
After he's married, no such thing,
'Get up and get my breakfast, you
good-for-nothing thing.'

HE'S GONE AWAY

Traditional Mountain Ballad

He's gone away for to stay a little while,
But he's comin' back if he goes ten thousand miles.
Oh who will tie my shoes?
And who will glove my hand?
And who will kiss my ruby lips when he is gone?
Oh he's gone; look away over yandro.

Oh it's Pappy'll tie my shoes
And Mammy'll glove my hands.

And you will kiss my ruby lips when you come back.
Look away over yandro.

BROTHERS, SING ON!

Come and let our swelling song
Mount like the whirling wind,
As it meets our singing throng,
So blithe of heart and mind.
Care and sorrow now be gone,
Brothers in song, sing on!

Youth is a wand'ring troubador,
Sailing the singing breeze,
Wooing a maid on a distant shore,
Over the tossing seas;
Steering by the stars above,
His vessel a song of love.
Brothers sing on, sing on!

Errant minstrels, thus we greet you,
List to our voices strong,
With glad and open hearts we meet you
In our festival of song.
Care and sorrow now be gone,
Brothers sing on, sing on!

WHO ARE THE BRAVE

Who are the brave?
Those who go to war?
Who are the brave?
Those who fight no more?
Those who gave their lives protecting
freedom's shore.
Who are the brave?
Those who serve in war.

Who are the brave?
Those who live with pain?
Who are the brave?
Those whose lives are plain?
Those with healthy bodies, those protecting
the unsure.
Who are the brave?
Those who serve the poor.

Who are the brave?
Those whose speech is free?
Who are the brave?
Those loving liberty?
All those with heart and mind, protecting
all they find.
Who are the brave?
Those who serve mankind.
These are the brave.

MAKE OUR GARDEN GROW

from **Candide**

You've been a fool and so have I,
But let's be man and wife.
And let us try before we die
To make some sense of Life.
For we know we're neither pure nor wise nor good;
We'll do the best we know;
We'll build our house,
And we'll chop our wood,
And make our garden grow.

I thought the world was sugarcake,
For so our Master said;
But now I'll teach my hands to bake
Our loaf of daily bread.

Let dreamers dream what worlds they please;
We know those Edens never can be found.
The sweetest flow'rs, the fairest trees,
Are grown in solid ground.

SEEDS GROW TO PLANTS

from **Canticles of America**

Seeds grow to plants if you add a little water;
Boys grow to men if you add a little time;
Trails grow to tracks if you add a little enterprise;
Each to each and ev'rything will be all right.

Plants grow to trees if you add a little sunlight;
Men grow to nations if you add a little hope;
Tracks grow to roads if you add a little know-how;
Each to each and ev'rything will be all right.

Like grows to love if you add a little fellowship;
Hope grows to faith if you add a little trust.
We want to make this world of ours the
promised land:
Will it to be so and faith will make it work out right.

We want to grow in the spirit of our fathers;
We want to live in this land our fathers made.
We want to spread in the wide open spaces.
Give us what we need and we will make the
world all right.

ZION'S WALLS

Come fathers and mothers,
Come sisters and brothers,
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.

O fathers don't you feel determined
To meet within the walls of Zion.
We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Oh beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain.
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

Oh beautiful for heroes proved,
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!

May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

Oh beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!

God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea!

Oh beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness.

America! America!
God mend thy ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul with self control,
Thy liberty in law.

Spirit of the Land

The United States Air Force Singing Sergeants—Washington, D.C.

First Lieutenant Chad A. Steffey, *Conductor*

SELECTIONS

Singing Sergeants

1. **Stomp Your Foot**¹, from *The Tender Land* (3:11)

music Aaron Copland

words Horace Everrett

TSgt Ryan P. Dolan, *baritone*

2. **Little Bird, Little Bird**² (2:00)

Gail Kubik

3. **Shenandoah** (3:19)

arr. CMSgt (ret.) Floyd Werle** and

CMSgt Michael Davis*

SMSgt Patricia A.F. Wolfe, *soprano*

4. **Old Joe Clark**³ (2:09)

arr. Mack Wilberg

5. **How Can I Keep From Singing**³ (4:58)

arr. Ronald Staheli

MSgt Robin Askew, *soprano*

6. **The Water Is Wide**⁴ (3:32)

arr. Stephen Paulus

MSgt Angela B. Williams, *conductor*

TSgt Matthew J. Irish, *baritone*

MU1 Emily Makela***, *harp*

7. **Saints Bound For Heaven**⁵ (1:49)

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

MSgt Angela B. Williams, *conductor*

Good News Singers—MSgt Carol Wiley, *director*

8. **Swing Low, Sweet Chariot**⁶ (2:47)

arr. Peter Knight

9. **The Battle of Jericho**⁷ (2:13)

arr. Moses Hogan

Singing Sergeants

10. **Deep River**⁸ (2:14)

arr. Roy Ringwald

11. **Let Me Fly**⁹ (2:15)

arr. and adapted Robert DeCormier

TSgt Kenneth G. Maxwell, *tenor*

Women's Chorus

12. **Hello, Girls**⁵ (1:56)

arr. Lloyd Pfautsch

13. **He's Gone Away**¹⁰,

from *Three Mountain Ballads* (3:19)

arr. Ron Nelson

Men's Chorus

14. **Brothers, Sing On!**¹¹ (1:50)

music Edward Grieg

words after the Swedish original Herbert Dalmas

arr. and ed. Howard D. McKinney

15. **Who Are the Brave!**¹² (4:02)

music J. Paul Williams

words Joseph M. Martin

Singing Sergeants

16. **Make Our Garden Grow!**¹

from *Candide* (3:59)

music Leonard Bernstein

words Richard Wilbur

arr. Robert Page

17. **Seeds Grow to Plants**¹³

from *Canticles of America* (3:52)

music Sir John Rutter

words David Grant

TSgt Sharon W. Nokes, *flute*

TSgt Erin Gittelsohn, *oboe*

MU1 Emily Makela***, *harp*

The United States Air Force Strings

18. **Zion's Walls**¹ (2:11)

adapted Aaron Copland

arr. Glenn Koponen

19. **America the Beautiful** (5:33)

music William B. Brabury

words Katherine Lee Bates

arr. CMSgt Michael Davis* and

MSgt Larry MacTaggart*

SMSgt Patricia A.F. Wolfe, *soprano*

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** Former Member, The United States Air Force Band

*** Member, The United States Navy Band,
Washington D.C.

The United States Air Force Singing Sergeants

First Lieutenant Chad A. Steffey—Ponca City, OK—*Conductor*

CMSgt Julianne Sages Turrentine—Uniontown, PA—*Manager*

Soprano

CMSgt Julianne Sages Turrentine—*Uniontown, PA*

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TSgt Matthew Irish—*Dallas, TX*

Piano

MSgt Marek Vastek—*Krakow, Poland*

○ Assistant Conductor

* Section Leader

@ Good News Singers

The United States Air Force Strings

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Violin I

MSgt Dustin Saam‡—*Glendora, NJ*

MSgt Mark Helm—*Binghamton, NY*

TSgt Mari Uehara—*Rockville, MD*

MSgt Deborah Volker—*Lansdale, PA*

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MSgt Alexander Dean—*Los Angeles, CA*

Cello

MSgt Vivian Podgainy*—*Dix Hills, NJ*

TSgt Franklin McKinster—*Arnold, MD*

TSgt Erin Eyles Espinoza—*Springfield, VA*

Bass

MSgt William Hones*—*Toledo, OH*

Violin II

MSgt William Tortolano*—*Underhill, VT*

TSgt Douglas Ellison—*Decatur, AL*

CMSgt David Swanson—*Portland, OR*

TSgt Cleveland Chandler—*Baltimore, MD*

‡ Concertmaster

* Principal

Viola

MSgt Paul Swantek*—*Plymouth, MI*

TSgt Bryce Bunner—*Evansville, IN*

MSgt Sharon Bingham—*Washington, DC*

MSgt Donald Harrington—*Elmira, NY*

Credits

Commander

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Deputy Commander/Co-Producer

Major Frank J. Grzych II

Staff Officer/Conductor

First Lieutenant Chad A. Steffey

Staff Officer/Co-Producer

First Lieutenant Richard M. Mench Jr.

Staff Officer/Co-Producer

First Lieutenant Donald E. Scofield Jr.

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Chief Master Sergeant Daisy L. Jackson

*Superintendent of Recording
Production*

Senior Master Sergeant William D. Porter II

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Technical Sergeant Eric Sullivan

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Technical Sergeant Marc D. Dinitz

Technical Sergeant Michael Piersol

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Production Assistants

Master Sergeants Angela Burns Williams and Mitchell J. Morton

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The United States Air Force Band Home Page is available on the World Wide Web at:
www.bolling.af.mil/band

The United States Air Force Band is wholeheartedly committed to reflecting the diversity of our great nation. We actively encourage individuals from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds to learn about our organization and seek positions in "America's Band."

Interested in Air Force opportunities? Contact Air Force Recruiting via
www.airforce.com or call 1-800-423-USAF

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U.S. AIR FORCE